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## **Montgomery County Water Well Advisory Concerning Cloudy Water**

Given the extremely wet weather in the region, a few Montgomery County water well owners may experience cloudy water. In very low-lying areas, wells may be temporarily flooded. Some older wells, which terminate in underground well pits, may also be affected by temporary flood waters.

In all such cases, homeowners must assume the water quality has been affected and act accordingly. Until the rainy weather ends, homeowners should follow the typical "boil water advice":

- Only boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, washing dishes, brushing teeth and food preparation.
- It is recommended that bottled water be used for consumption. If tap water is to be used for consumption, it must be boiled for 1 minute and then allowed to cool before use
- Avoid washing your face with tap water that may be contaminated
- Ice that has been made within your refrigerator within the last two days needs to be discarded and the ice maker needs to be turned off.

When dry weather returns and the water is no longer cloudy, these wells should be tested for coliform bacteria by a certified water testing laboratory. A list of certified labs is available on the internet .

[http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/Water\\_Supply/Documents/WSP-Lab-2011may18.pdf](http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/Water_Supply/Documents/WSP-Lab-2011may18.pdf)

Wells that terminate in underground well pits should be extended above ground by a licensed well driller to avoid future problems.

**For additional information please contact the Well & Septic Section at the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services at 240-777-6319.**